

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application and is directed to the claims as amended before the International Bureau.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis as claimed in claim ~~[[1]] 11~~, ~~characterized in that its~~ having a height in [[the]] a caudo-cranial direction relative to an orientation of the prosthesis in an implanted position in portions of the prosthesis configured to engage the lateral edge zones (10, 14, 17) is approximately equal to [[the]] a height of the intervertebral space at [[this]] the location of the edge zones, and [[its]] having a height in portions of the prosthesis configured to engage the central area (8) is greater than [[that]] a height of the intervertebral space at [[this]] the location of the central area.

3. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis as claimed in claim ~~[[1]] 11~~ or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the prosthesis surface is provided with elevations and depressions in the central area ~~[[(8)]]~~ but not in the edge area.

4. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 3 claim 11~~ or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the prosthesis surface is toothed in the central area ~~[[(8)]]~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis as claimed in claim ~~[[1]] 11~~ or 2, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein an angle of inclination (α) ~~of the edge zones (10) of the portion of a lower prosthesis surface [[(9)]]~~ that is configured to engage the edge zones of the end plate surfaces in the frontal plane relative to the main direction of extent [[(14)]] of the prosthesis ~~reaches~~ relative to an orientation of the prosthesis in an implanted position is at least 20°.

6. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 5 claim 11~~ or 2, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein an angle of inclination (β) ~~of the edge zones (10) of the portion of an upper prosthesis surface [[(11)]]~~ that is configured to engage the

edge zones of the end plate surfaces relative to the main direction of extent ~~[[(14)]]~~ of the prosthesis ~~reaches~~ relative to an orientation of the prosthesis in an implanted position is at least 0° ~~and preferably 10 to 30°~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 6 claim 11 or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the width ~~(15)~~ of the prosthesis has a width that is at least 1.5 times as great as ~~[[the]]~~ its depth ~~(16)~~ by which it is intended to lie in the intervertebral space relative to an orientation of the prosthesis in an implanted position.

8. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 6 claim 11 or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the specified shape of the prosthesis is limited to its dorsal half.

9. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral joint prosthesis, ~~in particular~~ as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 8 claim 11 or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the surface of at least one of its cover plates, whose size is dimensioned to substantially utilize the naturally provided surface extent of the intervertebral space, has a central area (8, 50), which extends approximately parallel to the main plane of extent of the cover plate, and, adjoining this in the dorsolateral direction, a surface (10, 51) beveled relative to the central area.

10. (Currently Amended) An instrument set configured for inserting the prosthesis as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 9 claim 11 or 2~~, ~~with at least one rasp (54) which reflects comprising a plurality of rasps adapted to~~ the configuration of the prosthesis and ~~which adapts configured to prepare~~ the vertebral body surfaces to accommodate the prosthesis shape,

~~which is~~ the rasps being designed such that it includes the rasps remove material from the central area and the edge zones ~~and substantially spares at least~~ except for the dorsal part of the edge zones ~~from removal of material~~.

11. (New) An intervertebral joint prosthesis configured for implantation into an intervertebral space between adjacent vertebral bodies of the cervical spine, which

intervertebral space is delimited by end plates of the adjacent vertebral bodies whose end plate surfaces whose surfaces laterally adjacent to a substantially flat central area include edge zones that are more strongly curved than the substantially flat central area,

at least one of the prosthesis surfaces being configured to bear on a vertebral body surface having a lateral extent reaching into the edge zones, the convex curvature of this prosthesis surface in a frontal plane being at least as great as the corresponding curvature of the end plate surfaces.

12. (New) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 6, wherein the angle of inclination of the portion of the upper prosthesis surface that is configured to engage the edge zones of the end plate surfaces relative to the main direction of extent of the prosthesis relative to an orientation of the prosthesis in an implanted position is 10 to 30° .